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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,330	04/12/2004	Tadashi Ohira	CFA00079US	4472
34904	7590	05/20/2009		
CANON U.S.A. INC. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION 15975 ALTON PARKWAY IRVINE, CA 92618-3731			EXAMINER	
			YEH, EUENG NAN	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2624		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/823,330	Applicant(s) OHIRA, TADASHI
	Examiner EUENG-NAN YEH	Art Unit 2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2009.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 7-10,12,19 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 7-9,12,19,22 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/1449)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 6, 2009 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. Supreme Court precedent (*Diamond v. Diehr*, 450 U.S. 175, 184 (1981); *Parker v. Flook*, 437 U.S. 584, 588 n.9 (1978); *Gottschalk v. Benson*, 409 U.S. 63, 70 (1972); *Cochrane v. Deener*, 94 U.S. 780, 787-88 (1876)) and recent Federal Circuit decisions (*In re Bilski*, 88 USPQ2d 1385 (Fed. Cir. 2008)) indicate that a statutory “process” under 35 U.S.C. 101 must (1) be tied to another statutory category (such as a particular apparatus), or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to

a different state or thing. While the instant claims recite a series of steps or acts to be performed, the claims neither transform underlying subject matter nor positively tie to another statutory category that accomplishes the claimed method steps, and therefore do not qualify as a statutory process. In order for a process to be "tied" to another statutory category, the structure associated with another statutory category must be positively recited in a step or steps significant to the basic inventive concept, and NOT just in association with statements of intended use or purpose, insignificant pre or post solution activity, or implicitly. For example method claim 19 performs the steps comprising: inputting data, transforming data, generating pseudo-coded data, switching data, and multiplexing data, wherein none of above steps positively "tied" to another statutory category. Secondly, a qualifying transformation is NOT recited for at least the reason that there is no external depiction of the transformed/modified data, such as but not limited to a visual display.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 7-9, 12, 19, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Hannuksela et al. (US 2001/0040700 A1), Klein Gunnewiel et al. (US 2003/0086622 A1), and Lee (US 2003/0156198 A1).

Regarding claims 7 (apparatus), 19 (method), and 22 (computer-readable medium), Hannuksela discloses a data process system comprising:

- a) input image data (as depicted in figure 3, numeral 101 "an input 101 for receiving a video signal from a camera or video source (not shown) of the terminal 1" in paragraph 46, line 3);
- b) first coding means for coding the input image data by transforming the input image data into frequency components in units of blocks and coding said frequency components by adaptively using an intracoding mode and an interceding mode ("Block layer data consist of uniformly quantised discrete cosine transform coefficients, which are scanned in zigzag order, processed with a run-length encoder and coded with variable length codes. MPEG-2 and MPEG-4 layer hierarchies resemble the one in H.263" in paragraph 15, line 1. As depicted in figure 3, numerals 102, 103, and 104 "[a] switch 102 switches the encoder between an INTRA-mode of coding and an INTER-mode. The encoder part 100 of the video codec 10 comprises a DCT transformer 103, a quantiser 104 ..." in paragraph 46, line 4. Thus, blocks 102-104 are the first coding unit);
- e) a multiplexing unit configured to output a stream of multiplexed data obtained by storing the pseudo-coded reference data into a user data area in a video plane b]object in a stream of the image data encoded by the first coding unit in a case where

the coding process is performed in the intercoding mode, and to output a stream of data in which the pseudo-coded reference data is not stored in a case where the coding process is performed in the intracoding mode ("Encoders can use this indicator to instruct decoders which pictures resemble the current motion compensation reference picture so well that one of them can be used as a spare reference picture if the actual reference picture is lost during transmission ... This "spare" reference picture may be used by a decoder to decode the current frame if the default reference picture is lost for some reason. The spare reference picture number may be in respect of the whole picture or part of a picture. In the former case, typically the spare reference picture number is included in a picture header. In the latter case the spare reference picture number is included in the picture segment headers or macroblock headers of the picture. In a preferred implementation of the invention, the video signal is encoded according to the H.263 standard and the indicator is included in the Supplemental Enhancement Information" in paragraphs 19-20. See also, "Thus an indicator is provided for forwardly predicted frames not for backwardly predicted frames" in paragraph 22, line 1. Wherein this forwardly predicted frames are applicable to intercoding frames. Thus, for intracoding mode, there is no spare reference picture needed to output data stream. For intercoding mode, spare reference picture data used to represent the lost reference picture are multiplexed output data stream in the picture header, the picture segment headers or macroblock headers of the first coding unit. As shown in figure 2, numeral 50 is a multiplexing unit).

Hannuksela does indicate the need of spare reference picture for the intercoding mode. Hannuksela does not explicitly disclose the spare reference picture, i.e. pseudo-coded reference data, with frequency components and the switching unit for the intercoding mode. Furthermore, Hannuksela does not explicitly teach the frequency limitation.

Klein Gunnewiek, in the same field of endeavor of video encoder ("particularly to a video encoder which uses efficient spatial scalable compression" in paragraph 1, line 2), teaches an scalable enhancement codec as depicted in figure 3, numeral 314 based on local decoding #338 (inverse quantization), #340 (inverse DCT), and #348 on the input image data coded by first coding means such as #330 (DCT) and # 332 (Q) or first coding means from Hannuksela figure 3 #103 (DCT) and #104 (Q) to obtain the reconstructed image data then perform second coding such as #368 (DCT) and #370 (Q) under the bitrate controller #374. As depicted in Klein Gunnewiek figure 3, numeral 366 is the switching to output enhancement data, i.e. pseudo-coded reference data, for the P-frame or B-frame, i.e. intercoding mode, processing.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made that, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to provide the data processing system Hannuksela made with bitrate controlled scalable enhancement technique as taught by Klein Gunnewiek, not only it "can be used to improve error resilience in a transport system" in Hannuksela paragraph 124, line 1, but also "providing more efficient spatial scalable compression schemes which reduces the necessary bitrate of the encoder" in Klein Gunnewiek paragraph 9, line 3.

The Hannuksela and Klein Gunnewiek combination does not explicitly teach the frequency limitation.

Lee, in the same field of endeavor of video coding ("particularly, to a stream-based bitrate transcoder for MPEG bitstreams" in paragraph 3, line 2), teaches the importance of bitrate control "[b]itrate transcoding is a very powerful tool to adapt the dynamic bitrate changes in networked multimedia applications, especially in a heterogeneous networks environment" in paragraph 5, line 1. And "bitrate controller is used to overcome two potential problems with (1) reducing too many bits for dropping too many coefficients and (2) too few coefficients being dropped. A simple TM5 rate control is used to deal with these problems. It should be noted that the coefficient dropping starts with the non-zero high frequency coefficients towards the low frequency ones and DC coefficients are never selected for dropping" in paragraph 43, line 3. Thus, the bitrate controller can be used to limit DCT frequency components during data processing.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made that, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to include the said data processing system of the Hannuksela and Klein Gunnewiek combination, with limited DCT frequency components as taught by Lee, not only this method can be "quickly adaptive to the dynamic changes of bitrate requirements for bandwidth-limited networked multimedia applications" in paragraph 44, line 7, but also a "consistent video quality may be maintained to some extent" in paragraph 23, line 9.

Regarding claim 8, pseudo-coded reference data generating unit performs coding on only direct-current components obtained by limiting said frequency components (as discussed in claim 7, "...and DC coefficients are never selected for dropping" in Lee paragraph 43, line 9. Thus, the Hannuksela, Klein Gunnewiek, and Lee combination teaches that other coefficients can be dropped and the DC components can be the only frequency components used).

Regarding claim 9, first coding unit and said pseudo-coded reference data generating unit use an MPEG-4 standard to code the image data ("The invention may be implemented in other video coding protocols. For example MPEG-4 defines so-called user data, which can contain any binary data and is not necessarily associated with a picture. The additional field may be added to these fields" in Hannuksela paragraph 136, line 1. See also "Most video compression standards support spatial scalability. FIG. 1 illustrates a block diagram of an encoder 100 which supports MPEG-2/MPEG-4 spatial scalability" in Klein Gunnewiek paragraph 5, line 1).

Regarding claim 12, the pseudo-coded reference data is used as a reference image when the image data coded in the intercoding mode by said first coding unit is decoded (discussed in claim 7 by Hannuksela that spare reference picture data, i.e. pseudo-coded reference data, used to represent the lost reference picture during intercoding decoding process).

Response to Arguments

a) Summary of Applicant's Remark:

"Claim 7 includes features, *inter alia*, that the pseudo-coded reference data is output when the coding process is performed in the intercoding mode, and the pseudo-coded reference data is not output when the coding process is performed in the intracoding mode" at response page 12, line 5.

Examiner's Response:

As discussed in claim 7 by Hannuksela for intracoding mode, there is no spare reference picture needed to output data stream. For intercoding mode, spare reference picture data used to represent the lost reference picture are multiplexed and outputted. Reference to the rejections above for further discussion.

b) Summary of Applicant's Remark:

"The Klein Gunnewiek et al. reference discloses a switch (switch 366) for outputting the enhancement data, in Fig. 3. The switch is for outputting the enhancement data to any frames of an I-picture, a P-picture, and a B-picture" at response page 12, line 9.

"The Hannuksela et al. reference discloses the bit stream including a further codeword SRPT, in Fig. 7. The SRPN disclosed in Hannuksela is supplemental information. That is, the SRPN is not the pseudo-coded reference data" at response page 12, line 20.

Examiner's Response:

As disclosed by Hannuksela that there is an indicator to identify a spare reference picture, "... This "spare" reference picture may be used by a decoder to decode the current frame if the default reference picture is lost for some reason ..." in Hannuksela paragraph 19, line 11. Furthermore, "an indicator is provided for forwardly predicted frames not for backwardly predicted frames" in Hannuksela paragraph 22, line 1. Thus, this indicator, as used for intercoding mode, in combination of Klein Gunnewiek's switch to output pseudo-coded intercoding mode data. Refer to the rejections above for further discussion.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eueng-nan Yeh whose telephone number is 571-270-1586. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8AM-4:30PM EDT.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vikkram Bali can be reached on 571-272-7415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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